

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 EB-11 FRB-02

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P 182102Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:BEXP: GB

SUBJ: TRANSGABON RAILROAD

REF: LIBREVILLE 690

1. COMMERCE DISCUSSED WITH TAMS IMPLICATIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE TAMS GROUP ENGINEERING ROLE OF POSSIBLE GOG MULTINATIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (MRCE) TO REVIEW BIDS.

2. TAMS FEELS MRCE WOULD BE HIGHLY REDUNDANT. BY ASSUMING PART OF ROLE NORMALLY PERFORMED BY ENGINEER, MRCE WOULD PRODUCE CUMBERSOME AND PROBABLY SUBPAR REVIEW PROCESS, COMPLICATING WORK OF ENGINEER AND DELAYING CONSTRUCTION.

3. TAMS PARTNER PER SORENSON WILL BE IN PARIS JUNE 16 TO WORK WITH BCEOM, SOFRERAIL COHORTS AND NEW OCTRA DIRECTOR MASSON ON SUPERVISORY OPERATIONS AND DRAFTING CONTRACTS. AT THAT TIME HE INTENDS TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO AVOID

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MRCE TECHNIQUE.

4. TAMS DIRECTOR, WEST AFRICA OPERATIONS', STANLEY GLYNN, IN PARIS JUNE 4-8 FOR TAMS GROUP NEGOTIATIONS MASSON AND OTHER GOG REPS RE ENGINEER ROLE, REPORTS HIS GROUP HAS ENGINEER JOB FOR OWENDO-BOOUE LEG IN BAG. THIS ROLE, HE SAYS, WILL-INCLUDE SUPERVISION CONSTRUCTION BOOUE-FRANCE-VILLE AS WELL AS OWENDO-BOOUE LEG. OTHER ASPECTS ENGINEER

ROLE OWENDO-BOOUE ARE TO REVIEW AND SUPPLEMENT DESIGNS. CONTRACTORS WOULD PROVIDE OWN DESIGNS, SUBJECT ENGINEER'S REVIEW (I.E., USUAL PROCEDURE MOST COUNTRIES EXCEPT U.S.).

5. EMBASSY REQUESTED EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES MAKING GOG WARE SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS GROUP OF "EXPERTS" ATTEMPTING BID EVALUATION. EMBASSY SHOULD EXPLAIN THIS IS A VERY DETAILED JOB, REQUIRING INTEGRATED TEAM OF EXPERIENCED TECHNICIANS WITH FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE LATEST HIGHLY SPECIALIZED RAILROAD TECHNOLOGY. SUCH INDIVIDUALS VERY FEW AND FAR BETWEEN IN GOVERNMENT BUREAUS AND WOULD BE MOST UNLIKELY, EVEN IF AVAILABLE, TO UNITE INTO AN EFFECTIVE TEAM.

6. ON OTHER HAND, BLUE-CHIP ENGINEERING FIRMS SUCH AS TAMS, MORRISON-KNUDSEN CAN BE FULLY DEPENDED ON TO PUT GOG INTERESTS FIRST, AS THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY DONE WITH THEIR CLIENTS, IN DOING FINEST POSSIBLE JOB SELECTING CONTRACTORS AND SUPERVISING THEIR WORK. GOG SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS IS HOW THESE TWO BLUE-CHIP FIRMS BUILD THEIR REPUTATIONS, WHICH THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO RISK JEOPARDIZING BY ANYTHING LESS THAN THEIR BEST EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF GOG RE TRANSGABON.

7. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE MRCE. IS THEIR REVIEW TO DETERMINE THE TECHNICAL QUALITY OF THE BIDS, OR IS IT TO INSURE AN EQUITABLE REVIEW PROCEDURE. WHAT WOULD BE ROLE OF MRCE IN ACTUAL AWARDING OF CONTRACTS? IF REPRESENTATIVES ARE TO BE FROM PRIVATE SECTOR, WOULD IT NOT BE INADVISABLE TO HAVE INDIVIDUALS FROM COMPANIES COMPETING FOR THE CONTRACTS SERVING ON COMMITTEE? CAN EMBASSY PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING NATURE OF REPRESENTATION, (E.G., LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENT) FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INVITED AND WHAT THE REACTION OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN LIBREVILLE HAS BEEN?

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